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1	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT			
2	DISTRICT OF DELAWARE			
3	Case No. 01-01139(KJC)			
4	x			
5	In the Matter of:			
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7	W.R. GRACE & CO., ET AL.,			
8				
9	Reorganized Debtors.			
10				
11	x			
12				
13	United States Bankruptcy Court			
14	824 North Market Street			
15	Wilmington, Delaware			
16				
17	October 14, 2014			
18	10:01 AM			
19				
20				
21	BEFORE:			
22	HON KEVIN J. CAREY			
23	U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE			
24				
25	ECR OPERATOR: AL LUGANO			

Page 2 HEARING re Amended Debtors' Twenty-Fifty Omnibus Objection 1 2 to Claims (Substantive and Non-Substantive)[Filed: 3 8/26/08](Docket No. 19378) 4 5 HEARING re Reorganized Debtors' Objection to the Remaining 6 Claims for the Internal Revenue Service (Substantive)[Filed: 7 4/22/14](Docket No. 32036) 8 9 HEARING re Motion of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Auditors and Tax Consultants for Debtors, to allow Amendment of Its 10 Final Application for Allowance of Compensation and 11 12 Reimbursement of Expenses for the Period January 10, 2002 13 Through February 3, 2014 to Be Deemed Timely Filed [Filed: 14 8/25/14](Docket No. 32386) 15 16 HEARING re Motion for Final Decree: (A) Closing Certain of 17 the Chapter 11 Cases; (B) Removing Such Cases From the Joint 18 Administration Order; and (C) Waiving the Requirements to File a Final Report for Such Cases [Filed: 9/16/14](Docket 19 20 No. 32401) 21 HEARING re Final Fee Application of Counsel to the Debtors, 22 23 the Statutory Committees, and the Future Claimants' 24 Representative for Compensation for Service Rendered and 25 Reimbursement of Expenses

	Page 3
1	HEARING re Fifty-Second Interim and Final Fee Application
2	Request of Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod LLP for
3	Approval and Allowance of Compensation for Services Rendered
4	and Reimbursement of Expenses as Counsel to the Official
5	Committee of Asbestos Property Damages Claimants for the
6	Period of April 9, 2001 Through February 3, 2014 and Request
7	for Fee Enhancement for Services in Connection with
8	Fraudulent Transfer Litigation Against Sealed Air
9	Corporation, Cryovac, Inc. and Fesenius Medical Care
10	Holdings[Filed: 5/12/14](Docket No. 32190)
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25	Transcribed by: Dawn South

	Page 4
1	APPEARANCES:
2	PACHULSKI STANG ZIEHL & JONES LLP
3	Attorney for the Reorganized Debtors
4	919 N. Market Street
5	17th Floor
6	Wilmington, DE 19899
7	
8	BY: JAMES E. O'NEILL, ESQ.
9	
10	THE LAW OFFICES OF ROGER HIGGINS, LLC
11	Attorney for the Reorganized Debtors
12	1 North Bishop Street
13	Suite 14
14	Chicago, IL 60607
15	
16	BY: ROGER J. HIGGINS, ESQ.
17	
18	BILZIN SUMBERG
19	Attorneys for Bilzin Sumberg
20	1450 Brickell Avenue
21	23rd Floor
22	Miami, FL 33131
23	
24	BY: SCOTT L. BAENA, ESQ.
25	JAY M. SAKALO, ESQ.

```
Page 5
    SAUL EWING
1
2
         Attorney for the Equity Committee
3
         222 Delaware Avenue
4
         Suite 1200
5
         Wilmington, DE 19801
6
7
    BY: TERESA K.D. CURRIER, ESQ.
8
9
    SMITH KATZENSTEIN & JENKINS LLP
10
         Attorney for PricewaterhouseCoopers
         800 Delaware Avenue
11
12
         Suite 1000
13
         P.O. Box 410
14
         Wilmington, DE 19899
15
16
   BY: CLARISSA R. CHENOWETH, ESQ.
17
    FERRY, JOSEPH & PEARCE, P.A.
18
19
         Attorney for FJP
20
         824 Market Street
21
         Suite 1000
22
         P.O. Box 1351
23
         Wilmington, DE 19899
24
25
    BY: LISA L. COGGINS, ESQ.
```

```
Page 6
    BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC
1
2
         1105 N. Market Street
         Suite 1900
3
4
         Wilmington, DE 19801
5
6
    BY: MARY F. CALOWAY, ESQ.
7
8
    UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
9
         Attorney for the U.S. Trustee
         844 King Street
10
11
         Suite 2207
12
         Wilmington, DE 19801
13
14
    BY: RICHARD L. SCHEPACARTER, ESQ.
15
16
   ALSO PRESENT:
17
   MARK T. HERFORD, ESQ.
18
    ADAM PAUL, ESQ.
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   RICHARD FINK
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   ALSO PRESENT TELEPHONICALLY:
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    WARREN H. SMITH, ESQ.
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Page 7 1 PROCEEDINGS 2 THE CLERK: All rise. Be seated, please. 3 THE COURT: Good morning, all. MR. O'NEILL: Good morning, Your Honor. 4 James 5 O'Neill, Pachulski tang Ziehl & Jones appearing today on 6 behalf of the reorganized debtors, with my co-counsel, Roger 7 Higgins, and also Adam Paul who's in the courtroom, Your 8 Honor, from the Kirkland firm. 9 also wanted to note that our client, Richard 10 Fink, who's vice president and associate general counsel is also joining us today in the courtroom. 11 12 Your Honor, thank you very much for hearing us 13 today. Today is the final fee hearing, and we also have an 14 administrative matter and then a contested matter. 15 My proposal for handling the agenda would be to do 16 the uncontested final fee applications and a related motion 17 first, and then hopefully we could excuse the parties who 18 are appearing telephonically or in person just for the uncontested fee applications, and then we'll move to the 19 20 balance of the agenda. 21 THE COURT: All right, thank you. Let me ask you 22 to pause for a moment, Mr. O'Neill. 23 I hear sounds coming from the telephone 24 connection. Let me remind all participants please to keep 25 their phones on mute until it's time for them to be heard.

Page 8 1 Thank you. 2 You may proceed. 3 MR. O'NEILL: Thank you, Your Honor. Just for purposes of the record, Your Honor, item 4 5 number 1 and 2 on our agenda are continued to our next 6 hearing date. 7 Moving to the uncontested fee applications, Your Honor. As a preliminary matter I will note on agenda 8 9 number 3, PricewaterhouseCoopers, who served as a auditors 10 and tax accountants for the debtors, filed a motion to amend 11 their final fee application. There were no objections filed 12 to that. And PricewaterhouseCoopers filed a certificate of no objection. There have been no objections filed on the 13 14 docket or ways that I'm aware of, Your Honor. I'm not sure 15 whether the Court has had an opportunity to review that 16 order yet. 17 THE COURT: I have, and I signed it yesterday. 18 MR. O'NEILL: Thank you very much, Your Honor. Moving then to item number 5 on the agenda, which 19 20 is the uncontested final fee applications. Your Honor, 21 these fee applications include the last quarterly fee appeal 22 and the final fee applications for the entire case. Your Honor, in this case Warren Smith has been 23 24 appointed the fee auditor and has served as fee auditor 25 throughout. Mr. Smith and his colleagues have reviewed the

final fee applications and submitted reports with respect to each of the final fee applications, and it is my understanding that with respect to the final fee applications, which are before Your Honor on this particular matter, all professionals have agreed to accept the recommendation of the fee auditor, and the fee auditor has prepared a schedule, which we have incorporated into a final form of order.

We did file the form of order under certification of counsel yesterday, Your Honor, but we received one correction and then a change, and so I have a slightly revised schedule.

I will note that the change that we made relates to the members of the property damage committee expenses.

There were certain expenses which the fee auditor had questioned, and the property damage committee members have not had an opportunity to fully respond.

so with respect to the property damage committee expenses that application is going to be adjourned to the next hearing date to provide additional time for the committee to review the expenses and speak with the fee auditor. And the fee auditor was okay with that as were the reorganized debtors, Your Honor.

Your Honor, I do have a revised schedule and a proposed form of final order approving the fifty-second

	Page 10
1	interim fee applications and the final fee applications, and
2	I'm happy to approach with that order.
3	THE COURT: If you would. Thank you.
4	Let me ask for the record does anyone wish to be
5	heard in connection with the fee applications? I don't have
6	any questions. I hear no response.
7	This is Judge Carey, I still hear a noise coming
8	from the telephone connection. If I hear anymore I'll
9	direct the CourtCall operator to terminate that line. This
10	is your last warning.
11	That order has been signed.
12	MR. O'NEILL: Thank you very much, Your Honor.
13	I would like to step back for a moment then to an
14	administrative matter at agenda matter number 4, which is
15	the motion for entry of final decree closing certain of the
16	Chapter 11 cases, removing such cases from the joint
17	administration order, and waiving requirements to file final
18	or the for such cases.
19	THE COURT: I'm sorry, Mr. O'Neill. Is the
20	CourtCall operator on the line.
21	OPERATOR: Yes, Your Honor, this is the CourtCall
22	operator.
23	THE COURT: Can you identify the line that the
24	noise is coming from?
25	OPERATOR: Yes, we have had we have had

	Page 11
1	multiple lines that have been having noise from them. One
2	of them was Robert Murphy's line, and then one of them was
3	Mr. Kaplan line, which has just disconnected.
4	THE COURT: What was the most recent static off
5	them?
6	OPERATOR: The most recently one was John Kaplan's
7	line, which has since disconnected, Your Honor.
8	THE COURT: Thank you.
9	OPERATOR: You're welcome.
10	THE COURT: Let's try again, Mr. O'Neill.
11	MR. O'NEILL: Okay, Your Honor. Thank you.
12	Moving to item number 4 on the agenda is the
13	motion for entry of final decree closing certain of the
14	Chapter 11 cases.
15	Your Honor, as we have progressed through the case
16	we have filed motions to enter final decree closing certain
17	of the cases. This is the current pending motion would
18	allow us to close all but two of the cases. The two
19	remaining cases would be W. R. Grace & Co. and W. R. Grace &
20	CoConn. Those are 01-01139 and 01-01140. Those two cases
21	would remain open.
22	Your Honor, we filed the motion seeking authority
23	to close these cases and received comments from a creditor
24	and also from the Office of the United States Trustee.
25	Your Honor, the creditor was SGH Enterprises,

Page 12 Inc., formally known as Samson Hydrocarbons Company, and we 1 2 have revised the order pursuant to their request so that 3 certain open claims held by that creditor were transferred 4 to the Grace Conn case, and that -- those changes are 5 reflected in the order. 6 We also received comments from the United States 7 Trustee, and we appreciate their cooperation in working with us on the final reporting for the cases, and we've 8 9 accordingly entered certain language in the order which will 10 allow us to file the post-confirmation reports current as of today's date. And we did file a certification of counsel 11 12 reflecting those changes. 13 There have been no changes since we filed the certification of counsel, but I have a copy of the order 14 15 here that I'm happy to hand up. 16 THE COURT: The order was signed yesterday. 17 MR. O'NEILL: Very good, Your Honor. Thank you 18 very much. We certainly appreciate that. Moving then, Your Honor, to the only item 19 20 remaining on the agenda for today, this is the fifty-second 21 and final fee application request of the Bilzin Sumberg 22 Baena Price & Axelrod case. This firm served as counsel for

the official committee of asbestos property damage claimants during the case.

I will note just as a preliminary matter that in

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1	the final fee order, which the Court just approved, all of
2	the uncontested fees of the Bilzin firm were approved. The
3	only element which is contested is the request for a fee
4	enhancement, and that's as we have noted in our agenda.
5	And with that, Your Honor, I'll turn it over to
6	the Bilzin firm to make their presentation.
7	THE COURT: Thank you.
8	MR. O'NEILL: Thank you.
9	MR. SMITH: Your Honor, excuse me, this is Warren
LO	Smith, the auditor.
L1	THE COURT: Good morning.
L2	MR. SMITH: Your Honor, we had filed a final
L3	report regarding the fifty-second interim and final fee
L 4	application of Bilzin Sumberg, but we took no position, Your
L5	Honor, regarding the fee enhancement issue.
L6	THE COURT: I saw that.
L 7	MR. SMITH: In light of that, Your Honor in
L8	light of that I was wondering if Your Honor would mind if we
L9	dropped off the line.
20	THE COURT: You're free to do so, Mr. Smith, and
21	anyone else who's on the line who is no longer interested in
22	what remains today on the agenda is free to be excused as
23	well.
24	MR. O'NEILL: Thank you for that, Your Honor. I
2.5	did

Page 14 1 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Your Honor. 2 MR. O'NEILL: -- I neglected to ask for that, but 3 I do appreciate it. There were a number of parties who were 4 appearing just today for the uncontested portion, so we do 5 appreciate them being excused at this time. 6 THE COURT: All right. 7 MR. BAENA: May it please the Court. Good morning, Your Honor, my name is Scott Baena, I am with the 8 9 law firm of Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod. I'm here 10 today with my partner, Mr. Jay Sakalo. And as counsel 11 indicated we have represented the official committee of 12 asbestos property damage claimants since April of 2001 in 13 the W. R. Grace matter. 14 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Baena, just a couple things 15 preliminarily. 16 One, I want you and the others to know I did read 17 the written submissions, and I'll simply say to all sides 18 that use of hyperbole will not enhance your chances of getting an enhancement. So let's keep the discussion on 19 20 that level. But I have a couple preliminary questions. 21 MR. BAENA: Yes, sir. 22 THE COURT: Are fee enhancements permitted in this 23 circuit? 24 MR. BAENA: Your Honor, there is no circuit law 25 that I'm aware of that either permits it or doesn't permit

Page 15 1 it. 2 THE COURT: Okay. Am I applying in connection 3 with the determination on the relief that you've requested a standard under Section 328 or 330 of the Bankruptcy Code? 4 5 MR. BAENA: It would be 330. And if I could be 6 more specific, Your Honor? 7 THE COURT: Certainly. MR. BAENA: I believe that more recent case law 8 9 views the analysis as being one that is informed by both 10 330(a) as well as the Johnson factors. And --11 THE COURT: All right. You may proceed. 12 MR. BAENA: Thank you, Your Honor. 13 Just preliminarily, Your Honor, for the record our 14 application is found within -- our application for an 15 enhancement is found within our fee application at docket 16 32190. Objections to our application were filed by both the 17 debtor -- or the reorganized debtor I should say -- at docket 32382, and by the U.S. Trustee at docket numbers 18 19 32408 and 32409. In an attempt at efficiency we also filed 20 my declaration at docket number 32420. I say it in an 21 effort of efficiency, it would be my proffer of testimony in 22 this regard. 23 THE COURT: It parallels with the motion alleges. 24 MR. BAENA: It does. Yes, Your Honor. 25 Assuredly, Your Honor, I do appreciate that the

enhancements are the exception and not the norm. After 40 years of bankruptcy practice I can honestly say I've only been involved in fee enhancements twice on my own behalf. This being the second. So I do indeed approach this advisedly, but nonetheless with the conviction that enhancement is warranted and entirely consistent with decision of law, particularly recent decision of law in this particular instance, given the extreme circumstances under which our law firm was enjoined to represent the estate in the Sealed Air fraudulent transfer litigation based upon the exceptional results that were achieved in the face of daunting opposition. And as a -- and those results were in large part a direct result of the substantial contribution that our firm made.

We seek an enhancement as well with all due deference to our co-counsel in the Sealed Air litigation.

And let me pause to make sure the Court understands, we are not seeking some holistic form of a fee enhancement for all of our services in this case. These -- this request is strictly limited to the services that we provided in respect to the foregoing transfer litigation against Sealed Air and Fresenius back in 2002.

We were one of three law firms that were engaged by the district court, Judge Roland was then presiding, to handle that litigation.

Page 17 And in fact all we're seeking here, Your Honor, is 1 2 to be afforded the same treatment, if you will, that was 3 afforded to our co-counsel in that matter, Milberg Weiss. THE COURT: But it's true, is it not, that you 5 knew the economic terms of your engagement at the outset? 6 MR. BAENA: Your Honor, the reality is we 7 certainly understood that we were engaged by the asbestos property damage claimants committee at a standard hourly 8 9 rate, and we had been continuously paid on that basic, 10 subject to revisions to those rates that occurred periodically throughout the case. 11 12 We came to the fraudulent transfer litigation in a 13 very, very different way though. We actually --14 THE COURT: But you knew at the time at which you 15 were authorized to pursue the litigation what the economic 16 terms of your engagement were to be in connection with that 17 litigation did you not? 18 MR. BAENA: I cannot concede that, Your Honor. We actually were before Judge Roland on a joint motion between 19 20 the asbestos property damage committee and the asbestos 21 personal injury claimants committee in an effort to engage 22 special counsel to litigate the matter. We had done an extensive search for counsel that 23 24 was both experienced in litigation and this sort of

litigation, and we intervened --

Page 18 THE COURT: Mr. Baena, I'm going to continue to 1 2 press you. I read the papers, I knew what happened, you won 3 the lottery unexpectedly, you can consider that good or bad, but you did. 4 5 But at the time when you began to pursue once you 6 got permission to pursue the actions over the vociferous objection of the debtors and others, you knew what the 7 economic terms of your engagement were did you not? 8 9 MR. BAENA: Your Honor, we understood at that 10 moment that our standard hourly rate what was we would be 11 billing. 12 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. 13 MR. BAENA: Yes. THE COURT: I knew I could get you there 14 15 eventually. 16 MR. BAENA: And I'm not trying to be evasive, 17 Judge. 18 THE COURT: All right. MR. BAENA: I will tell you though in absolute 19 20 candor with the Court, that the issue of our fees as opposed 21 to the fees of proposed counsel or the fees of counsel 22 selected by the judge in the latter, Milberg Weiss, were 23 indeed discussed subject to objections and fully vetted. 24 Our fees and the fees of Caplin & Drysdale, the 25 counsel for the personal injury committee, were, I presume,

Case 01-01139-AMC Doc 32442 Filed 11/05/14 Page 19 of 47 Page 19 assumed to be our standard hourly rates, but they were not actively discussed. We (indiscernible - 10:21:48) of course, Your Honor, when we were enjoined to handle this litigation. I don't -- didn't regard to that at that point in time as winning the lottery. We had a small law firm, we were up against a host of law firms, including Skadden, Arps, the --THE COURT: You know when I was in practice I enjoyed that kind of challenge myself. MR. BAENA: Well, I suppose it opened -- it became enjoyable, Your Honor, but it did -- it did bring on great hardship to our law firm at that point. THE COURT: So let me -- let me ask this. parties have cited lots of law which offers a menu of factors which the Court can or should or may consider in connection with such a request, but one of the factors -- I

think the U.S. Trustee brought it up in her objection -- was -- and I didn't see anything in the motion or in your declaration about this -- and that is, were there other representations that you were forced to turn down as a result of the -- my words, not yours -- but overwhelming strain that it put on your firm's resources to pursue this litigation?

MR. BAENA: Your Honor, and again, I hope that my -- neither my affidavit nor what I'm about to tell you is

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deemed to be evasive.

We were forced to devote all of our time and attention to this litigation. We were forced to redeploy senior people in our firm, litigation people, and they were compelled to work on this exclusively. We had 5,000 hours expended in a period of 7 months on this matter. For a law firm of 60 lawyers that's an incredible amount of time and energy.

Can I point Your Honor to a single case that walked in the door that we turned away as a result of this?

No, I cannot, Your Honor. But I can tell you we weren't soliciting that work either. And in a small law firm that's what you do. And we did not, because we could not undertake that.

Indeed I refer in my affidavit to two other

matters that we were engaged to handle during the same time

period and we had to delay getting revved up for one of

those matters as a result of the fact that the team that had

been assign to do that matter was now being redeployed to

this matter.

So in honesty, Judge, I cannot say to you we lost the representation of Mrs. Jones, but I can tell you we were unable to solicit Mrs. Jones for that work.

THE COURT: At presumably a higher hourly rate.

MR. BAENA: At -- Judge, no.

Page 21 THE COURT: Because you see for me the dynamic is 1 2 if you turn down work that you could have billed more for at 3 a higher rate then -- then maybe you've got a little bit of 4 my ear any way, but again, it's not a criticism, and I 5 appreciate your candor, but that doesn't seem to be the case 6 here. 7 MR. BAENA: Well, Judge, we --THE COURT: You have a law firm that fully 8 9 occupied -- and by the way these days I don't hear a lot of 10 that. 11 MR. BAENA: Well a lot of years later, you're 12 right. 13 THE COURT: Yeah. MR. BAENA: But back then it was the salad days, 14 15 Your Honor, and we were all very busy. 16 THE COURT: Yeah, and you know, generally law 17 firms see that as a good thing if they're being paid their standard rates. So what's the beef here? 18 19 MR. BAENA: Well the beef is that we wouldn't have 20 undertaken this on just our standard hourly rate if we were amongst those firms that were soliciting this work as 21 22 perfected counsel. Nobody that we interviewed was going to 23 undertake this litigation on a standard hourly basis. No 24 one. Indeed at the last moment there was retreating with

the law firm that was selected, and it came down on its rate

Page 22 1 from a substantially higher rate, which also had an hourly 2 component as well as a contingent fee component. And our 3 view was that that was the same way we were doing. The two 4 other cases that I was engaged in during that same period of 5 time, the one that we had to delay and the one that came 6 subsequent to the conclusion of this case, those were also 7 engagements that were not on our standard hourly rate basis. 8 THE COURT: Okay. 9 MR. BAENA: Now they were the same sort of 10 litigations. 11 THE COURT: So let me ask this. Understanding, 12 without having been there, but just assuming for a moment in 13 the chaos of what to do in pursuit of litigation and who 14 should pursue it, if you had it to do over again at that 15 point would you have stuck up your hand and said, you know, 16 judge, thank you for the privilege of ordering us to take --17 undertake this litigation, but can we talk about our hourly 18 rate? If you had it to do over again do I think that might 19 have been a good thing to do? 20 MR. BAENA: If I had Mulligan again, Judge, I 21 would like to think I would have -- I would go back and do 22 it better. But, Judge, as we sit here and now --THE COURT: In the calm environment of Delaware 23 24 bankruptcy court. 25 MR. BAENA: -- in the calm of all this --

Page 23 1 THE COURT: Yes. 2 MR. BAENA: -- I can assure you it wasn't that 3 way. 4 I grew to have tremendous represent for Judge 5 Roland as a result of this matter. I had never appeared before him before, didn't know anything about him before. 7 Judge Roland had his own (indiscernible - 10:27:21) but a 8 very effective way of managing matters in front of him. He 9 was not a bankruptcy specialist before or during his term on 10 the bench, so this was --11 THE COURT: Although the Supreme Court in Stern 12 has said the Article 3 court is -- are experts in 13 everything, so. 14 (Laughter) 15 MR. BAENA: They have. They have, Your Honor. 16 THE COURT: So there you are. 17 MR. BAENA: They have. But we know otherwise. 18 And Judge Roland was -- made it very clear to us at that moment in time, that very moment in time that our 19 20 role in this was not debatable, and it certainly didn't 21 appear to us to be an opportune time to talk to him about 22 how much we were going to get paid. THE COURT: But --23 24 MR. BAENA: But I will assure you, Your Honor --25 THE COURT: -- I will accept that as true.

Page 24 1 MR. BAENA: I assure you I never -- I never 2 considered it a foregone conclusion that that was the end of 3 the day. 4 THE COURT: Okay. 5 MR. BAENA: One of the things I might add, Judge, 6 in that regard is that it's never happened to me before or 7 since, early in the W. R. Grace case, I understand that Judge Roland was handed a whole package of asbestos cases, 8 9 and to the large extent the players in each case were very 10 much the same, represented by the same people, and so he was 11 -- he was moving all of these to the starting line -- not to 12 the finish line -- but to the starting line at the same 13 time. He would convene group meetings regularly. 14 At the very, very outset of his involvement after 15 the Third Circuit appointed him to supervise these cases, he 16 actually asked all of us to agree that he could meet with 17 everybody on an ex parte basis. 18 THE COURT: I know. MR. BAENA: And he did. And he did all the time. 19 20 And I had the benefit of meetings like that too, sometimes 21 by myself, he sometimes would invite folks from across the 22 aisle, depending upon what it was that he was focused on 23 that particular day. 24 I assure you, Judge, that I did have a

conversation him, an ex parte conversation about addressing

the fee issue, particularly after the settlement with Sealed Air was reached. And I did reach -- I did receive assurances that we would address it. But he made a point which frankly resonated with me, and even after his departure made entirely good sense to me, and that was we're not going to talk about that until the settlement is actually executed upon by Grace. Under the settlement the defendants were entitled to a 524(g) injunction, they can only get that through a plan, and so the execution of the settlement was, you know, inextricably intertwined with a confirmed plan.

THE COURT: Well, as you say, you call it is centerpiece of the plan.

MR. BAENA: And it was the centerpiece of the plan, but I can assure you, Judge, at that moment in time when he -- when he said we need to wait 'til it's actually -- the debtor actually avails itself of it, it never occurred to me it would be 11 years before that occurred. It didn't occur to me that he would be gone in that period of time, that the bankruptcy judge that approved the settlement would be gone during that period of time.

We were reminiscing before Your Honor walked in the room, there are only a few of us that were here in 2002 that continue to be involved in the case today. And so --

THE COURT: Well lasting some time is its own

reward.

MR. BAENA: Sometimes. I don't consider that an advantage in this particular context. Indeed I apologize for dropping this on your desk, given that you don't have that corporate memory.

THE COURT: Look, when I first came to the bench here in Delaware my first job was to take back all the cases that the many visiting judges had here at that time, so I'm a -- I'm a veteran at taking things that I didn't start but am required to finish.

MR. BAENA: Well, look, I'm leading with my own chin, Judge, but you know, the case law makes it very clear that a record is important in all of this, and those records have generally resulted from the corporate memory of the courts that presided over the matters.

I'm not going to sit here and tell you about, you know, seven months of litigation so as to impart that corporate memory on you, I couldn't conceivably do it, and I do understand that I therefore suffer this disadvantage.

THE COURT: You know, I -- well, you're free to hold your own opinion, but I will tell you the story you told in you motion, jumped off the page, and frankly, I'm willing to assume, without deciding, but -- that your description of what it was like to begin and then to end up where you ended up is all true, and I don't know whether the

objectors here today would concede that or not, and their objections in part, at least the debtors' for sure, does not wholly because you had help they say and were part of a team effort they say, but I'm willing to believe that the effort that you undertook was every bit as difficult as you describe it in your motion, but I'm not sure that in and of itself answers the question.

MR. BAENA: I appreciate that. It isn't just the effort, it is the result as well. And I do believe, Judge, that the defining moment in that litigation was the Standards opinion that was issued by Judge Roland, which essentially required the inclusion of post-transfer asbestos claims in the analysis of solvency.

For the (indiscernible - 10:33:14) judge this attempt at prosecuting these claims was described variously as a fool's errand and a sure loser, and it was because of the debtors' view that (a), they had been subjected to claims that were not valid and there was a spike in those claims just before they filed, they alleged, and that we would not be able to demonstrate insolvency based upon valid claims.

The Standards opinion changed that calculus dramatically. Indeed the day the Standards opinion came out they -- the value of Sealed Air stock plummeted by 42 percent. It clearly had a profound affect on the outcome of

Page 28 1 the litigation. 2 THE COURT: Well then maybe Judge Roland should 3 get an enhancement? What do you think? 4 MR. BAENA: I won't even --5 THE COURT: No need to respond. 6 MR. BAENA: -- I won't even say what I was about 7 to say. 8 THE COURT: No need to respond. 9 MR. BAENA: Maybe he should, but I'd like to think 10 that it was good lawyering that brought him to that 11 position. 12 THE COURT: I knew you'd say that. 13 MR. BAENA: And we do believe we have some bragging rights in that regard, Judge. It was -- we 14 15 promoted the idea of moving forward the in limine, we 16 drafted the first round of briefs, we socialized that with 17 our co-counsel, my partner argued it to Judge Roland, and 18 indeed it was a successful conclusion, and it did open the gate to settlement discussions, which were concluded in 19 20 November of 2002 on a very, very favorable basis. 21 Indeed while it's taken us 11 years to get here, 22 Judge, I should point out that during that same period of 23 time under this settlement agreement Grace was earning 5 and 24 a half percent interest compounded annually on about 25 \$512 million which was a cash component of this settlement.

So in that same period of time they earned \$600 million while we were unable to prosecute our claim.

Any notion of windfall here, Judge, any suspicion of windfall I think is really unfounded. I'm not seeking a windfall.

And to cut to the chase, Judge, the motion that one cannot seek an enhancement because they weren't solely responsible I think was laid to rest by the very authorities that the objectors rely on. Asarco -- in Asarco Baker & Boch (ph) was of course lead counsel, The Hayden (ph) firm was local counsel, both of them were awarded an enhancement for their role in that case. And the Hayden firm by the way was merely local counsel, which in the litigation that gave rise to the enhancement, their sole job was purely an administrative one. So the courts are recognizing that there is the opportunity for enhancement where there is a joint effort.

But even more importantly here we're not trying to gore anyone's ox. We're just asking to be treated the same way our co-counsel was treated. Judge Roland no less unilaterally negotiated a \$475 blended hourly rate with Milberg Weiss. None of us participated in those discussions, although he did direct us to move for their appointment on that basis and we did. We defended their application as well although we asked them to take the

laboring oar in that regard.

In their -- in their defense of their retention they made the point that they wouldn't have ordinarily taken this except on a contingent fee basis, but I gather Judge Roland was able to prevail upon them to do otherwise.

And we take the view that what we're really asking you to do, Your Honor is to recalibrate our loadstar in respect of this particular engagement and to -- and consistent with 330(a) treat us fairly and provide us a reasonable fee which is based upon what the district court judge presiding over this matter valued these services at. And we would argue that that became market for this case. A district court judge decided that's the value that should be paid for these services, and we just ask to be treated the same way.

Indeed part of me says I'm not even asking for an enhancement, I'm asking for the first time, as you point out, I am asking for the very first time that somebody address my loadstar in this case. We billed at a standard hourly rate. None of the cases -- none of the cases suggest that that's what your strapped with. They talk about prevailing market rates. And I think we've determined what the prevailing market rate was in 2002 by the exhaustive search we did for counsel, and by Judge Roland's own agreement with Milberg Weiss.

Page 31 I was -- I would argue respectfully, Your Honor, 1 2 that is the lower end of the market that existed at that 3 point in time based upon the comments of Mr. Friedman and 4 his filed papers on behalf of Milberg Weiss. And if that's 5 the case I think 330(a) does -- does warrant that the Court 6 revisit not what we billed, but how we get paid, and that it 7 would be appropriate and fair and reasonable for us to be 8 paid on the same basis. 9 It would be a lot better I suppose optically if 10 Caplin & Drysdale wished to step up here and say we think we 11 should be paid that way too, but --12 THE COURT: Well that's one of the fears the 13 debtor expresses. 14 MR. BAENA: Well they missed the opportunity, they 15 have assured me they're not going to do so, and I'm not here 16 to explain to you why and I don't need to. 17 I don't think though that the fact that someone 18 who might have been entitled to an enhancement, for lack of a better word, decided to forego it means that everybody 19 20 else is prejudiced by that. 21 THE COURT: All right, I understand. Mr. Baena, 22 I'd like to get to the others shortly. Is there anything --23 MR. BAENA: Thank --24 THE COURT: -- you'd like to --25 MR. BAENA: Thank you very much, Your Honor.

Page 32 1 THE COURT: Thank you. 2 Let me hear from the reorganized debtors first. 3 MR. HIGGINS: Again, Your Honor, Roger Higgins for 4 the reorganized debtors. 5 I think it's fairly simple from our perspective. 6 When you look at the standards that other courts have used, 7 and I'm thinking of the Public Service Company, said words to the effect that the burden can't be overcome by 8 generalized rhetoric of success and value but only by a 9 10 specific showing of exceptional activity without 11 (indiscernible - 10:40:32), that the achievements wouldn't 12 have -- would have happened. 13 THE COURT: Well let me ask you this, Mr. Higgins, do you in any way disagree with the circumstances that 14 15 Mr. Baena describes around which these arrangements were 16 made? 17 MR. HIGGINS: Your Honor --18 THE COURT: Obviously if they were ex parte contacts there's nothing you can say about that, but just 19 20 generally, did he give me a fair description of the way 21 things were at the time? 22 MR. HIGGINS: Your Honor, in talking to my client 23 and to others who were involved there is, to put it bluntly, 24 a fair amount of hyperbole there. If we want to get into 25 specifics quite frankly we'd have to, you know, go in an

evidentiary direction. We don't think that that's necessary. We do think it's overblown. The rhetoric in the -- in both the motion and in the application and in the declaration speaks for itself.

THE COURT: I'm talking about the description Mr. Baena gave me today.

MR. HIGGINS: Your Honor, they were one, and you pointed it out yourself, they were one of several firms.

The lead firm was Milberg Weiss, they were co-counsel with Milberg and with Caplin. They had two other firms, the Speights firm and the Dyce (ph) firm that were helping them specifically with aspect -- the property damage aspects of the case.

When you listen to what counsel said today and when you read what is in the -- his declaration and in the motion they were part of a team, and they were a smaller part of the team, and very much in contrast to say in the Asarco case.

THE COURT: Well let me -- let me switch gears for a moment and just give you an impression.

In light of the fact that the debtor and others fought so hard against bringing these actions, which turned out to be wildly successful, it seems to me that on one level the reorganized debtors' objection here could be viewed as just sour grapes. I mean, I -- to put the final

Page 34 argument I guess on an argument that had been ongoing. How 1 2 do you respond to that? MR. HIGGINS: Your Honor, I think that -- I think 3 that's an unfair characterization. 4 5 THE COURT: Tell me why. 6 MR. HIGGINS: The reorganized debtors spent 12 7 years -- almost 13 years in bankruptcy. This was hard 8 fought all the way around. The Bilzin firm was the only one 9 of 80 professionals to ask for a fee enhancement or any kind 10 of increase over their loadstar rate. 11 THE COURT: But in a way your objection seems 12 ungrateful for what the efforts, at least in part, brought for the debtor. 13 14 MR. HIGGINS: We took a view, Your Honor, when you 15 look at that in the context of all the other professionals. 16 One does note, as Mr. Baena did, that nobody else asked for 17 one of the -- for a fee enhancement, and I think that that 18 goes a long way to speaking for itself --19 THE COURT: Well, you know sometimes --20 MR. HIGGINS: -- and it was the fact that they 21 asked. 22 THE COURT: -- in bankruptcy cases there's only 23 one party asking for relief which everyone else in the world 24 opposes, and I will tell you most of the time that shouldn't 25

matter.

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1	MR. HIGGINS: It shouldn't matter, but they you
2	know, they made the bargain they did in April of '01, May of
3	'01 when they were retained.
4	THE COURT: It sounds to me as if they didn't have
5	much of a choice.
6	MR. HIGGINS: At the rates they set when they were
7	retained in 2001? I would beg to differ, Your Honor.
8	THE COURT: Well, no, at the point at which they
9	were required to pursue this litigation.
10	MR. HIGGINS: I mean, I think that if what counsel
11	said uncontroverted, yes, but I would suspect that if the
12	carpet were to be rolled back and events looked at more
13	closely that that would turn out to be I think a best case
14	scenario, a best case look at what that the roll that PD
15	counsel took at the time. We can't know standing here
16	today, and I would be loathe to say that I do.
17	THE COURT: Thank you.
18	MR. HIGGINS: All right.
19	MR. SCHEPACARTER: Good morning, Your Honor.
20	Richard Schepacarter for the United States Trustee.
21	THE COURT: Good morning. Mr. Schepacarter, let
22	me ask you a question that I asked the movant here.
23	Are fee enhancements permitted in the Third
24	Circuit?
25	MR. SCHEPACARTER: I don't think there's anything

on point Third Circuit law wise.

THE COURT: Are they precluded in the Third
Circuit?

MR. SCHEPACARTER: I don't think they're precluded in the Third Circuit. The way I -- I analyzed the law was that there's a loadstar and I think we cited to (indiscernible - 10:46:59) so I guess that's a Third Circuit case, and we could --

THE COURT: It sure is.

MR. SCHEPACARTER: -- kind of start there, and I think that that talked about the loadstar of how to calculate fees. And I think that the Third Circuit hasn't discussed this of course, at least there's not a case that I've been able to find, but I think that that amount can be either lowered, and I think there's situations where it can be lowered for a number of reasons, and I don't have to go into detail with that, but I think Your Honor understands what those reasons might be, or it could be higher based on certain other factors.

And as I said, I don't think there's any Third

Circuit wise that's there, but I think we did cite to a

couple other cases, one of which was a Ninth Circuit case

and also to a Supreme Court case which talked about how the

-- and I think we laid it out in your papers -- how the

possibility of an upward adjustment of the loadstar might be

Case 01-01139-AMC Doc 32442 Filed 11/05/14 Page 37 of 47 Page 37 -- might be handled. 1 2 THE COURT: Well if I read your objection 3 correctly you say the Court should look at three things, and that the movant here hasn't met its burden in demonstrating 4 5 one, that the hourly rates paid were not market rates; two, 6 that they didn't incur either extraordinary expenses and 7 there wasn't other employment from which they were precluded as a result of this reputation; and third, there was no 8 9 substantial risk of non-payment here. Did I correctly read 10 your objection? 11 MR. SCHEPACARTER: That's our opening statement 12 part of it, I think we go into more detail as the objection 13 goes on, but I think that's sort of --14 THE COURT: Well there's lots of detail in all the 15 pleadings. I think I said it's a menu of factors that the 16 Court can select from --17 MR. SCHEPACARTER: Right. 18 THE COURT: -- but I'm trying to distill them as 19 best I can. 20 MR. SCHEPACARTER: Understood. 21 THE COURT: And I will tell you, I've said this

before, when I'm not bound by controlling law I limit myself to five factors. If you can't figure something out in five factors something is wrong. Now, I know there are others that may disagree with this and when I'm bound by

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controlling law I follow it.

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MR. SCHEPACARTER: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: But the parties seem to agree there is no controlling law here.

MR. SCHEPACARTER: Understood. And just sort of I guess to highlight a couple things is that with respect to the loadstar, and I think we cited some cases later on as we stated, the Court needs to look and see if there was something that sort of precluded that the loadstar factors didn't already take into account, and I think that all of that -- none of that has been established through what Mr. Baena has indicated. He cites to -- and parties have also cited -- that there are other parties involved in the case. There was Caplin & Drysdale, the PI firm I guess you want to call them, the ones that were handle thing personal injury aspect of it, there was a lead counsel that was involved. And also with respect to the property damage aspect there were two other law firms involved that have been cited. The Speights firm and I think it was Dyce firm, I'm not sure if I'm saying that right.

Also Mr. Baena, and I think Your Honor pointed -sort of boiled this down, is that perhaps he could have made
a better deal somewhere along the line, and I think he cites
to a case which I don't think is very reliable, it's a case
that happened two years later, I don't know what the facts

of that case were, Mr. Lernow Hosby (ph) I guess postconfirmation litigation trustee was involved, and again,
maybe at that point there was some other deal to be made,
but I don't think we can sort of rely on that.

I think what we can rely on is what Mr. -- what the Bilzin firm put into its application, which was the hourly rates that were set forth therein, the work that was done, there was no adjustment during the period of the time during the case as to the hourly. Although the hourly rate grew, I haven't been able to sort of figure that out, but just didn't have enough time to go through it. But I'm sure the hourly rate increased over time.

And I think it would also appear that -- a couple other points I want to make before I get there. One of which is, I know there was some discussion as to the sort of ex parte discussions that went on, and I don't know that the Court can rely on that, because even though there's no evidence to the fact, even if we had that evidence it might also be hearsay. So, I don't think that that's probative of anything.

What also is an indication is that there's no evidence of the fact that any other work that could have been brought in -- I think we pointed it out in our papers, I think Your Honor highlighted that -- that there was no other work that was foregone that they can say that there

Page 40 was actually a loss there. So that those partners or 1 2 whomever were doing the work were still employed, they were 3 working on this case. The result was sort of I guess the 4 lynchpin, if you want to call it, for the plan, I wasn't 5 involved in this case. 6 Like Your Honor some things sort of reassigned, 7 and I think -- I think I handled the first days of this case, and I don't think I was involved until one of our 8 9 trial attorneys left a few years ago and then I've been 10 assigned to all of the asbestos cases in the office. 11 THE COURT: Oh, lucky you. 12 MR. SCHEPACARTER: Oh, I am lucky, I am blessed. 13 But --THE COURT: That's why we decided when Judge 14 15 Fitzgerald was done to randomly reassign them so not one of 16 us had them all. 17 MR. SCHEPACARTER: Yeah. Well, I didn't have -- I 18 wasn't that lucky. So -- but again, I don't -- there are aspects of 19 20 -- of sort of -- I mean, I can understand why somebody may 21 want a fee enhancement, but during the time of the case I 22 think all the work that was done has been compensated for, I 23 don't know that any of the factors that we point out either

on the first page of our objection or in the latter stages

with respect to the citation to the Supreme Court case,

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which basically states that, you know, a lawyer takes on a case, he is sworn oath that he'll be the best or she'll do the best that she can do, and that the hourly rates that they charge are commensurate with that.

There were no other -- there were no other parties that have asked for a fee enhancement. The Bilzin firm's fees fall somewhere in between I think the Milberg fees and the Caplin & Drysdale fees, if I got the numbers right, I think I set them forth in our papers, I think Milberg was somewhere in the range of \$3 million or so, and I think Caplin & Drysdale billed almost \$1 million for this litigation, at least that's the way I read the applications. I could be wrong on that, but -- but that's at least the way I read them. And this firm's fees sort of fall in between those. I wasn't able to figure out what the other Speights or the Dyce firm had billed for this. I tried to go back and look for it but I just wasn't able to get there.

So, I would maintain that based on the facts that have been presented that with respect to the application of the law, as we cited in our papers, that the fee enhancement just doesn't come up and meet those tests.

THE COURT: All right, thank you.

MR. SCHEPACARTER: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Baena, I've heard enough.

Normally I'd give the movements another shot at it, but

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1	really I think I've heard enough, and that's not a criticism
2	by the way.
3	MR. BAENA: I appreciate that. There were some
4	statements made without conclusive responses and I thought I
5	could provide that to you if you wanted.
6	THE COURT: All right. Mr. O'Neill, this was the
7	last item we had to address today?
8	MR. O'NEILL: Yes, Your Honor.
9	THE COURT: All right. I'd like to take a recess
10	and see counsel in chambers.
11	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, Your Honor.
12	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, Your Honor.
13	(Recess at 10:54 a.m.)
14	THE CLERK: All rise. Please be seated.
15	THE COURT: Good afternoon all.
16	During the recess I met with counsel and
17	encouraged them to see if they couldn't talk some more and
18	reach an amicable resolution of the Bilzin application.
19	The parties did have discussions, consulted with
20	their respective clients, and I am advised that a resolution
21	has been reached, and I'm pleased about that.
22	I know that this is not an easy issue for any of
23	the parties, and an agreement does not come easily to
24	anyone, but I am advised that the resolution consists of an
25	agreement among the parties, without opposition from the

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1	U.S. Trustee, for an additional payment of \$300,000 to the
2	Bilzin firm in complete resolution of this application.
3	I will note for the record that the time for
4	having filed fee applications and an application of the
5	nature that Bilzin filed here has long since passed in May
6	of this year earlier, so I don't expect to see further
7	applications of this nature since the time has indeed
8	passed.
9	And I'm willing to approve this resolution due to
10	the unique circumstances that apply with respect to Bilzin.
11	As all the parties have pointed out, such relief
12	is to be granted only under extraordinary circumstances, and
13	I'm satisfied, particularly in light of the agreed amount,
14	that that burden has been reached and satisfied.
15	So for these reasons I'll consider submission of
16	an amended fee order under certification, which will include
17	this resolution.
18	I'll pause now and ask if any of the parties wish
19	to be heard.
20	MR. O'NEILL: James O'Neill for the debtor, Your
21	Honor.
22	We appreciate the Court's assistance and we will
23	submit the order as requested.
24	THE COURT: All right.
25	MR. SCHEPACARTER: Richard Schepacarter for the

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1	United States Trustee, Your Honor.			
2	Although we're not party to the agreement the U.S.			
3	Trustee has no opposition to the resolution that's been			
4	reached.			
5	THE COURT: All right, thank you.			
6	Mr. Baena, do you wish to be heard?			
7	MR. BAENA: Only to thank the Court for its			
8	assistance in this matter and for allowing me to appear			
9	before you on this application.			
10	THE COURT: A delight to have you, sir.			
11	All right. I'll await submission of a revised			
12	order under certification.			
13	Mr. O'Neill, is there anything further for today?			
14	MR. O'NEILL: No, Your Honor, that includes our			
15	hearing for today, we certainly appreciate Your Honor's			
16	assistance.			
17	THE COURT: All right. Thank you all very much,			
18	that concludes this hearing. Court will stand in recess.			
19	(A chorus of thank you)			
20	(Whereupon these proceedings were concluded at 12:07			
21	PM)			
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1	CERTIFICATION
2	
3	I, Dawn South, certify that the foregoing transcript is a
4	true and accurate record of the proceedings.
5	Digitally signed by Dawn South DN: cn=Dawn South, o, ou,
6	email=digital1@veritext.com, c=US Date: 2014.10.17 13:01:33 -04'00'
7	Dawn South
	AAERT Certified Electronic Transcriber CET**D-408
8	
9	Veritext
10	330 Old Country Road
11	Suite 300
12	Mineola, NY 11501
13	Date: October 17, 2014
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